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I would like to thank Chairman Souder, Ranking Member Cummings, and other Committee members for allowing me to speak today.

I will be sharing information about drug prevention efforts in Ohio as it relates to one of the findings in the Rand Report¹ on the SDFSC State Grants program. I reference this report as it was quoted frequently in the PART² review of the Title IV program, which has led to its proposed elimination.

One criticism emphasized in the Rand Report is the formula-based distribution of funds. The report recommends that a competitive grant process be used and that funds be reserved for schools in greatest need. They contend this approach would be superior to the current practice of spreading the money too thinly across all schools.

Title IV operations in many Ohio schools counter that assertion. We contend that even a meager amount of federal assistance helps small, rural towns with minimal resources. Ohio, like many states, is made up of approximately 75% rural farm land. We have found that people in these areas approach “prevention” in non-traditional ways, but in the end, they accomplish their goals. Ohio schools have used their federal funds to leverage local dollars, volunteers, and donations. For example:

- ☐ In Lucas County, Maumee Jr. High School gets about \$8,000 in Title IV funds but the local hospital contributes another \$25,000 to keep the student assistance program running.
- ☐ In Mahoning County, S. Range Elementary School receives only \$5,200 a year but the guidance counselor, who serves as the safe and drug free school coordinator, still manages to run an after-school mentoring program using volunteers and donations.

Ohio “scatters” our \$15.7 million dollars in SDFSC funding over 790 LEAs in 88 counties. The Governor’s portion funds 44 programs in 26 counties. Despite what the Rand Report would call a “misdirected program”, we reach over a million children each school year. That figure includes **EVERY** 5th and 7th grade student in Cincinnati Public Schools who receives life skills training. In addition to school children, the Governor’s portion reaches more than 70,000 pregnant/parenting teens, runaway youth, homeless youth, and youth in detention centers each year.

If SDFSC funding is eliminated or if it is allocated only to a select number of schools with a good grant writer, the new cohort of Cincinnati students will not have the opportunity to build social competencies that will make them more employable in the future. Newly-settled Latino families in East Cleveland and Toledo will lose culturally-relevant support during their transition into America. But the children of Mahoning County will probably still have their mentor, because once a good mentoring relationship is established, they don’t fade away with the absence of funding.

Ohio, like other states, has seen decreases in alcohol and drug use over the past few years. Title IV funds have contributed to that. Drugs that have not received a lot of attention, though, are

creeping back on the scene—four students near my home town, for example, have died because of heroin overdose. Starfish, to quote an over-used analogy, line the beaches....and if SDFS money is eliminated, there will be no one left to pick up a few and throw them back in the ocean.

Last week, news surfaced about the gang rape of a female student in Columbus that occurred behind the curtain in the gym. Later, we heard about a riot on the playground during a fire drill in another school near Cleveland. One of my staff finished the day by counseling a parent of a child who has been chronically bullied since the beginning of the school year near Cincinnati. Our work is real and it is not finished. As a health educator, a parent, and now as a grandparent of children in Ohio schools, it scares me to death to think what the school environment would be like without the positive influences of SDFSC programs.

Dana is a testament to the impact that safe and drug free school coordinators have on the lives of students. Her school receives \$56,000 a year in SDFS funds, enough to fund a full-time coordinator. When a Lorain County student, Dana was a constant referral for behavioral problems; she had received several suspensions and was failing. After being referred to the DFS coordinator, it was discovered that Dana was trying to support her alcoholic Mom and two younger siblings with a job at McDonalds leaving late nights to do homework that is if she had enough energy left to do it. No father was present in the home. With the support of a caring adult and a Children of Alcoholics support group, Dana has since graduated and gone to college. Today, she is doing very well. Without intervention and support from a caring adult at school, Dana would have likely dropped out of school and continued the cycle of addiction that had been modeled for her in her home. What is scary is that under the Rand proposal, Dana's school would probably not meet the criteria for "schools in greatest need."

Certainly there are flaws in the present SDFSC state grant program that require fixing—but not elimination. As a Nation, I don't see how we can afford to eliminate a program that has changed the lives of children like Dana, homeless youth, and children who have to walk through unsafe neighborhoods to get to school, often hungry. Schools might deny that this is not their problem, but SDF coordinators know better and act differently. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts and your time.

¹Peter H. Reuter, P. Michael Timpane (2001) "Options for Restructuring the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act", RAND Drug Policy Research Center.

²OMB Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) Safe and Drug Free Schools State Grants. US Department of Education, FY 2004 Budget.

The Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) Program Has Been Successful in Ohio

SDFSC Funding Received By Ohio

In FY 2004, \$15.7 million were distributed, by formula and through the 20% Governor's set aside, to 790 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) throughout the state. A conservative estimate of the number of Ohio students served by this program is 1,144,000. In FY 2005, Ohio is also slated to receive \$15.7 million from this program. The Ohio Safe and Drug Free Schools program meets the five behavioral indicators of effectiveness established by the USDOE.

The SDFSC Program Is Vital to an ATOD Prevention Infrastructure in Ohio

The SDFSC program is the cornerstone of youth drug prevention and intervention efforts within the State of Ohio. It provides effective programs, services and activities, such as K-12 science-based prevention curricula, student assistance programs, law and civic education, drug testing, peer resistance training, crisis management planning, information dissemination about the dangers of drug use and violence, school resource officers, parent programs, peer mediation programs and youth-created video broadcasts explaining the dangers of substance use. It also supports workforce development for prevention program coordinators, teachers/school personnel, and parents throughout the state.

By design, the SDFSC program links schools with community partners. This program has historically been a catalyst for community involvement, volunteerism and the leveraging of funding from other sources to address drug and violence prevention and intervention throughout Ohio. Community-based SDFSC programs aim to reduce environmental factors that place youth at higher risk for alcohol and other drug involvement or to reach specific populations. School-based programs aim to build protective factors through research-based ATOD education, life skills development, and community service initiatives. Research indicates that a coordinated risk and protective factor approach has the greatest likelihood for reducing alcohol and other drug use.

What will happen to schools and families if the program is eliminated?

In Ohio, youth drug prevention efforts have been integrated into each school's continuous improvement plan as an essential element to removing the non-academic barriers to learning.

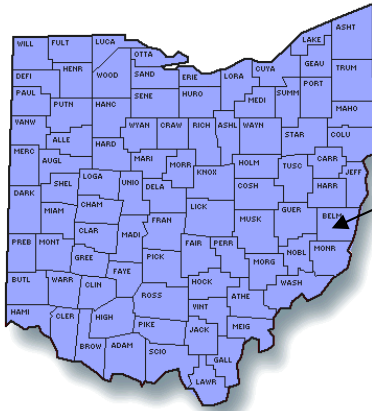
Without the \$15.7 million in SDFSC funding, schools will lose essential resources needed to implement programs aimed at removing drug-related barriers to learning. Youth will have limited opportunities designed to increase their inherent resiliency, their skills to navigate life's challenges, and their knowledge about the social, legal, and medical effects of alcohol and other drug use. Families will lose their resource link to the community drug treatment centers.

Additionally, schools will lack a point of contact for substance abuse prevention and intervention activities. Therefore, even if community groups want to donate funding and manpower to school based efforts, there will be no one to coordinate these efforts within the schools. Finally, there will be no school based representation in community wide efforts to deal with drug use and violence among school-aged youth. ***The bottom line: the State of Ohio's ATOD prevention infrastructure will be significantly weakened without the SDFSC programmatic and financial underpinnings.***

What are the statewide outcomes of this program?

Data from student surveys reveal that Ohio's Safe and Drug Free Schools/Communities Program has contributed to:

- An 11.7 % decrease in illicit drug use from 1998-2002. (Ohio PRIDE Student Survey, 1998 and 2002).
- A 32.6 % decrease in alcohol use from 1998-2002 (Ohio PRIDE Student Survey, 1998 and 2002).
- A steady decline in the percentage of students who reported carrying a weapon to school from 1993 to 2003, from 21.8% to 12.5% (Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2003)
- an overall decline in the percentage of students who smoked cigarettes on one or more of the past 30 days between 1993 and 2003 , from 29.7% to 22.2% (Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2003)
- County-specific successes are described on the following pages.

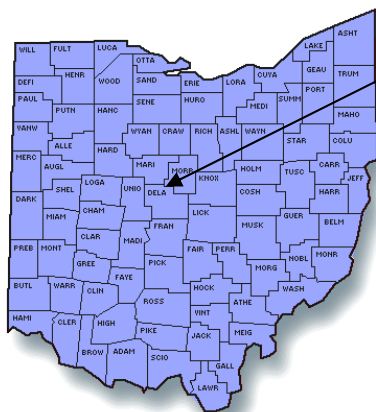


Spotlight on Student Services in Belmont County

Student intervention services are a common feature of SDFSC programming in schools funded through Title IV funds.

The Belmont County Student Services Center has been in existence for 23 years. Two-thirds of their budget relies on SDFSC monies. The Student Services Center provides student assistance programs to four school districts and one career center. Of the 631 individual students served in SY 03-04, 239 received long-term services (3 months or more). Despite their personal challenges, 93% of students served were promoted to the next grade. Other highlights for SY 03-04 include:

- ☐ 203 non-adjudicated students in detention received intensive services; 174 (86%) remained free from court involvement post intervention.
- ☐ 48 formal school interventions were successfully made to various community agencies for mental health and drug and alcohol services to assist families.
- ☐ Crisis information and services were provided for students/families to help them cope with the trauma of losing their homes, animals etc, during a massive 3-county flood.
- ☐ Grief-counseling services were provided for students and staff over a 3-week period following the death of two prominent school officials within a week of each other.
- ☐ Besides the individual cases mentioned above 1429 students received group prevention services throughout the year. Eight-nine percent (89%) of these students showed an increase in substance abuse knowledge, decision making skills and the ability to be assertive with peers.

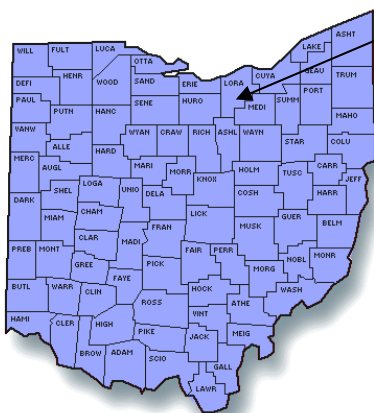


Spotlight on School-Community Partnerships in Delaware County

Asset development, a program of the Search Institute, was introduced to Ohio SDFSC programs in 1993. Since that time, numerous schools have adopted it as a way to increase protective factors among youth.

Olentangy School District in Delaware County uses \$22,000 in Title IV funds to implement a district-wide asset-building model. To achieve maximum impact, school-based SDFSC coordinators build the capacity of school personnel, parents, and the community at large to build development assets within their classrooms, youth groups, homes, juvenile courts, and other community systems. In addition to capacity building, SDFSC coordinators also provide direct services for youth including: support groups for at-risk students; ATOD intervention services to students and their families including referral to community agencies; classroom prevention presentations centering on ATOD education, bullying issues, safety, and violence; public awareness campaigns using RED RIBBON week and PROM PROMISE activities; peer prevention programs at the middle and high school level including active participation in Teen Institute, Youth to Youth, and STAND; and prevention curriculum revision and implementation. As a result of this asset-building philosophy:

- ☐ Parents have become coordinators of community parent forums and parent fairs to encourage asset building in homes and community events
- ☐ Older youth mentor sixth-grade students to facilitate a smoother transition from elementary to middle school; more sixth grade students are staying involved in prevention programs longer as a result of this program
- ☐ Intensive outreach to at-risk youth using a strengths-based approach has contributed to a 19% decrease in disciplinary actions and a slight increase in graduation rate for the school district.



Spotlight on Multi-faceted SDFS Programming in Lorain County

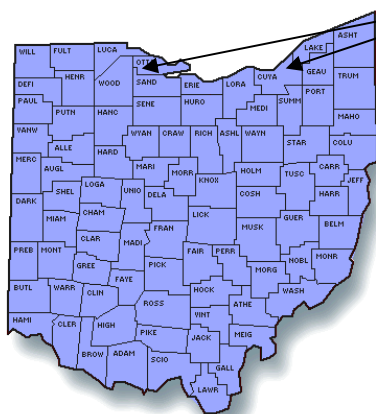
To assist in removing the non-academic barriers to learning, SDFS programs in Ohio provide a range of prevention, early intervention, and referral services for students.

Elyria School District in Lorain County receives \$56,580 in Title IV funding and has planned a comprehensive SDFSC program. Coordinators ensure that:

- ☐ all 6-7-8th grade students receive life skills training;
- ☐ peers in 12 elementary, 3 junior high, and 1 high school are trained to mediate conflicts;
- ☐ public awareness is raised through RED RIBBON and PROM PROMISE initiatives;
- ☐ families/students have an advocate in suspension hearings related to alcohol and other drug or violence policy infractions
- ☐ Individual counseling is available for students experiencing grief, divorce of parents, depression; during SY 2003-04, 1153 youth in three junior high schools received intensive, individual intervention services.
- ☐ each school building's staff receives ongoing training and support for ways to increase developmental assets in students
- ☐ a strong link exists with community prevention efforts to enhance student environments—at home, at school, and in the community through asset building and a strong link exists with community treatment options to get families/students the services they need

These prevention and intervention services have contributed to a decrease in policy violations for alcohol and other drug issues from 28 in SY 2002-03 to 20 in SY 2003-04; a 10% decrease in truancy referrals to Juvenile Court from SY 2002-03 to SY 2003-04; and a reduction in physical fights on school grounds from 74 in SY 2002-03 to 62 in SY 2003-04.

Personal Example of Success: Dana was a constant referral for behavioral problems; she had received several suspensions and was failing. Dana was referred to SDFSC coordinator who arranged for Dana to get the support she needed at home as well as in school. Dana was trying to support her family with a job at McDonalds—her Mom was an alcoholic and there were two younger siblings; no father present. Dana became part of the Children of Alcoholics support group convened by the SDFSC coordinator. She later graduated and went on to college, and is currently doing very well. Without intervention and support from a caring adult at school, Dana would have likely dropped out of school and continued the cycle of addiction that had been modeled for her in her home.



Spotlight on Community-based Outreach to Latino Families in Lucas and Cuyahoga Counties

Lucas County: The Adelante Program in Lucas County receives \$84,000 from the Governor's Portion of Title IV. Their focus is on training and support for Latino parents, who will in turn use their learned skills to better communicate a message of non-acceptance of ATOD use to their children. Parents engaged in one of two tracks meet two times a week for three hours each day. Optional weekend meetings are arranged for parents who work. Components of the tracts are: ATOD prevention education; parenting education; parent leadership training; life skills, English as a Second Language; General Equivalency Diploma classes; and supportive services such as food pantry, clothing, shelter and/or referral to other community agencies. Seventy-five percent of participants in the ESL classes learn fluent English; 3 of 10 candidates for the GED have already passed, 4 candidates have taken the pre-test and three are still practicing. Seventy-five percent (75%) of participating parents say they feel more confident in talking to their children about alcohol and other drug use.

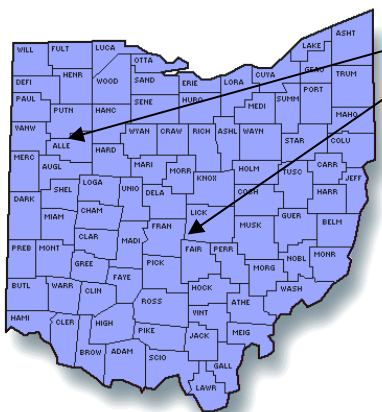
Success Story: Mr. and Mrs. Garcia have five children. They are first generation Latinos who have migrated here from Mexico. Upon arrival they had limited English speaking skills. They have no family here and depend on Adelante for support. They have been attending the Parenting and English as a Second Language classes and they have enrolled their children in Adelante's corollary youth programs. As a result of involvement in the program, the family has assimilated into their American community; they attend other Latino events as a family unit. Mrs. Garcia recently attended a parent/teacher conference at her daughter's school (2nd grade), something immigrants often avoid. An older daughter attended the US/Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago with a group of Adelante students and is now leading Adelante's STAND (tobacco prevention) program.

Cuyahoga County: The Hispanic Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program receive \$90,000 in SDFS funds to reach Latino students in kindergarten through 5th grade, which attend bilingual Cleveland Public Schools located on the Near West Side of Cleveland. "Project Niño's" uses "Skills for Growing" to teach 825 Latino students each year. Ninety-six percent (96) % of these students state that Project Niño's is their primary source of ATOD information. In addition to the curriculum, staff conducts home visits to work with the family.

Using pre/post test knowledge surveys and teacher interviews, data reveals:

- ☐ 90% of K-2 grade students are able to identify beer and wine as harmful to their health among other developmentally appropriate content
- ☐ 61% of children in grades 3-5 give more fuller, realistic descriptions of responsible behavior and decision making at post-test

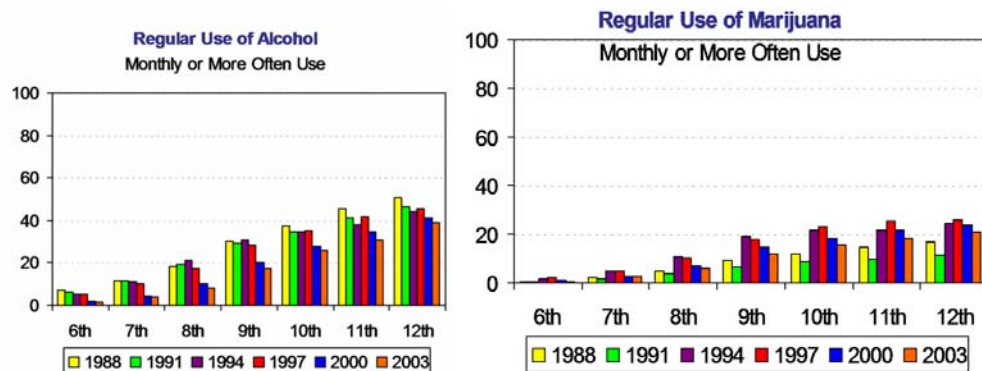
Spotlight on SDFSC Consortia in Toledo Diocese and Franklin Counties

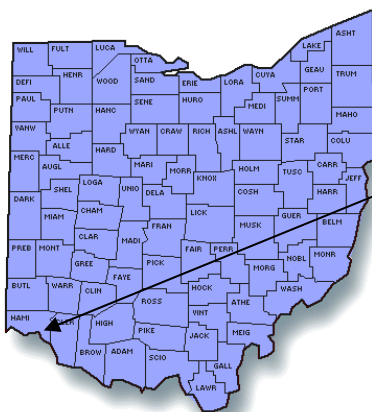


Approximately 10 SDFSC Consortia are operating in Ohio. These consortia convey they achieve more impact with their limited SDFSC funds when resources are pooled and the emphasis is on capacity building of school personnel and community prevention providers.

Toledo Diocese. The Toledo Diocese receives Title IV funds to serve a consortium of 100 schools in 19 Northwest Ohio counties. Because their service region is so large, they have adopted a capacity building approach that enables school staff in each building to provide ATOD prevention education; classroom management, conflict resolution, and crisis response. They also use students as resources and provide training of peer mediators for students in grades 5-12. Diocesan SDFS staff is also available to each school for consultation and counseling if requested by a principal. Many requests revolve around mediation of school and family issues. In addition to staff development, the Diocesan SDFS coordinators provide direct education for students upon request on special topics such as stress management and other life skills and drug specific information.

Franklin County. Schools in Franklin County have formed a Consortium to maximize the impact of their SDFSC dollars. Each school contributes \$15,000 of their allocation to support consortium efforts. Staff at the Consortium use a capacity building approach to empower school staff with best practices through ongoing in-services and workshops. They also conduct the Primary Prevention, Awareness & Use Survey (PPAUS) student survey. According to the 2003-04 PPAUS, 83% of the Franklin County students had participated in Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) at least once in school; 31% of all students surveyed had been in drug-free clubs or activities such as Youth to Youth or Teen Institute; 24% of students had participated in conflict resolution programs like peer mediation and Peaceful Schools; and 37% of the Franklin County students had participated in drug-free leadership or camps or retreats (for example Youth to Youth). PPAUS data has consistently shown a decrease in all drug use categories since its first administration in 1988, as reflected in the charts on alcohol and marijuana use below.





Spotlight on Developing Life Skills among Urban Youth in Hamilton County

Ohio has eight large metropolitan areas. Urban school districts in these areas are faced with numerous risk factors for alcohol and other drug use.

Cincinnati Public Schools receives \$387,000 to reach their student body of 37,708 students. Four full-time staff is paid from these funds. A focus of this program is on capacity building of school personnel to integrate quality ATOD education and prevention programming in their classrooms. Parents are also viewed as a resource and are trained in each school building on talking to their child about drugs, asset development, and parenting skills. The remainder of SDFS funds (\$301,000) is allocated to each school through a formula based on enrollment to address school-specific risk factors. Schools with 5-9th graders are targeted. As a result of enabling school staff and parents, district-wide successes have been achieved. SDFS funds have contributed to a county-wide reduction in alcohol and other drug use as presented in the charts on alcohol and marijuana use. Features of this urban-based SDFS program are:

- ☐ Every student in Cincinnati Public Schools receives Life Skills training by the time they have completed 5th grade.
- ☐ Every student in CPS receives Second Step by the time they have completed the 7th grade.
- ☐ Strong collaboration with other prevention service providers in Hamilton County is viewed as a priority and achieved through the Community SDFS Advisory Board.
- ☐ Parents are empowered resulting in their organization of safe and drug free parent initiatives, which includes safe home manuals, after-prom activities, parent education and networking, and a school SDFS web page.

Monthly Usage	2000	2002	2004
Cigarettes	21	16	15
Beer	30	23	19
Marijuana	15	13	13

Table: 30 Day use rates for aggregate 7-12 grade students; 64,000 students surveyed
 Source: Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati Student Drug Use Survey (adaptation of the National PRIDE survey).